

Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee

1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

September 30, 2021

Honorable Chairman Brenner, Vice-chair Blessing, Ranking member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

I would like to express my support for House Bill 105. It is our responsibility to equip every child with the knowledge required to protect themselves from sexual abuse, dating violence, and sexual violence.

Requiring each school district, community school, and STEM school to provide annual age-appropriate instruction in these topics is an important first step in helping our children protect themselves from these evils.

However, I believe that this bill can do even better. Specifically, this bill can and should go further by requiring students to complete 0.5 credits in sex education in order to graduate high school. Education is one of the most powerful tools that we have at our disposal to solve society's problems before they occur. In other words, it's our duty to teach our children the skills and knowledge they need to thrive as adults.

By requiring every child to learn about sex, sexual violence, human trafficking, rape, safe sex practices, and other related topics for an entire semester, we prove to our children that we take their physical, mental, and sexual wellbeing seriously.

This bill is a unique opportunity to prevent the problems of child abuse and sexual and dating violence before they happen. I have faith that you and all other Ohio legislators will not let this opportunity go to waste.

Thank you for your time in considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Edward Patrick Akinyemi